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Deep Rising

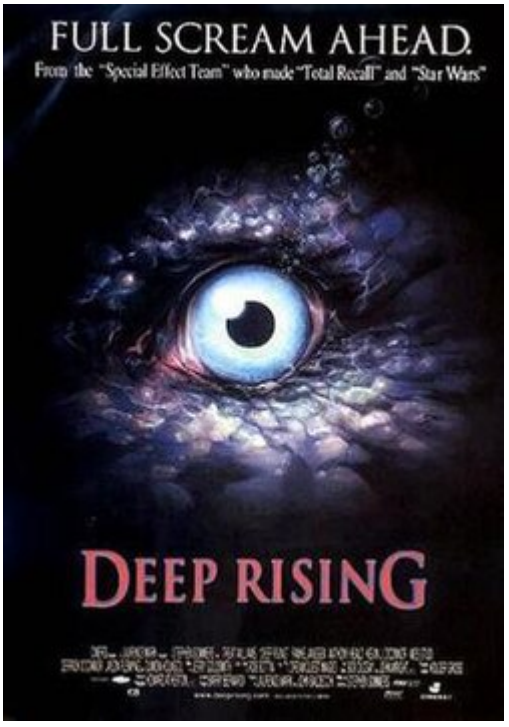
Deep Rising is a 1998 American action horror film written and directed by Stephen Sommers and starring Treat Williams, Famke Janssen and Anthony Heald. It was distributed by Hollywood Pictures and Cinergi Pictures and released on January 30, 1998. While the film was a critical and box office failure, it has been regarded as a cult film.[3][4]

Plot

Captain John Finnegan and his crew, Joey and Leila, are hired by mercenaries Hanover, Mulligan, Mason, Billy, T-Ray, Mamooli, and Vivo to pilot their boat across the South China Sea to an undisclosed rendezvous point. Meanwhile, the *Argonautica*,[a] a luxury cruise ship built and owned by Simon Canton, is undertaking its maiden voyage. Thief Trillian is discovered and taken to the brig. An unidentified saboteur disables the ship's navigation and communication systems. Something rises from beneath and rams the vessel, leaving it dead in the water, and the passengers are slaughtered by unseen creatures.

A speedboat that the "Argonautica" has shaken loose collides with Finnegan's boat. The mercenaries seize control with the intention of looting the passengers and vault of the Argonautica and then using the torpedoes stored on board to sink the ship. Leaving Leila and Billy behind to repair the boat, the group boards the ship. The group reaches the ballroom only to find blood and no sign of the passengers. Finnegan and Joey go to the ship's workshop to scavenge parts to repair the boat under Mamooli and T-Ray's guard. While repairing their boat, Leila is dragged away by the creatures. The creatures kill T-Ray as he investigates the unusual noises. The creatures drag Mamooli away. Finnegan and Joey flee and encounter an escaped Trillian.

Deep Rising



International theatrical release poster

Directed by	Stephen Sommers
Written by	Stephen Sommers
Produced by	Laurence Mark
	John Baldecchi
Starring	Treat Williams
	Famke Janssen
	Anthony Heald
	Kevin J. O'Connor
	Wes Studi
	Derrick O'Connor
	Jason Flemyng
	Djimon Hounsou
Cinematography	Howard Atherton
Edited by	Bob Ducsay
	John Wright
Music by	Jerry Goldsmith

The mercenaries reaches the vault, and Vivo opens it. However, Canton, who was hiding inside with Captain Atherton and three other passengers, mistakenly kills Vivo. Mason and Mulligan panic and accidentally kill the passengers. The mercenaries, Canton, & the Captain flee the creatures and subsequently encounter Finnegan, Joey, and Trillian.

Canton is revealed as the saboteur, having hired the mercenaries to sink the unprofitable ship so that he could collect on the insurance. The creatures appear as Canton and Captain Atherton fight, releasing a partially digested Billy after Finnegan shoots it. After the creatures attack and eat Captain Atherton, Canton theorizes the creatures are an evolution of Ottoia, which drain their victims of their bodily fluids and then eject the bloody carcasses.

Production companies	Hollywood Pictures Cinergi Pictures
Distributed by	Buena Vista Pictures Distribution (North America/France) Cinergi Productions (International)
Release date	January 30, 1998
Running time	106 minutes[1]
Country	United States
Language	English
Budget	$45 million[2]
Box office	$11.2 million (USA)[1]

As the survivors flee, Mason is grabbed by a creature. He kills himself by detonating a grenade. Mulligan elects to stay behind in the crew's galley until a rescue party can arrive. A creature approaches Mulligan, who scares it off with fire from the stove before being devoured from behind by another creature.

In a running battle, the survivors find themselves being herded. Attempting to rid himself of any witnesses to his insurance scam, Canton misleads the others to the bow while he moves towards an exit route. The group finds the bow is a "feeding ground" full of bloody skeletal remains. The creatures break through the hull, flooding the lower decks and separating the survivors. Hanover wounds Joey to slow the creatures but is eventually devoured by one. As an act of mercy, Joey leaves Hanover a gun. However, Hanover wastes his only shot trying to kill Joey and is consumed.

Finnegan and Trillian spot an island and return to Finnegan's boat, but—having lost the engine parts—find it useless as a means of escape. Joey returns and begins repairs, and Finnegan sets the boat's autopilot to crash into the *Argonautica* and detonate the torpedoes. Trillian returns to the *Argonautica* and locates a jet ski with the fuel they can use to reach the island, but Canton arrives armed with a flare gun. Canton demands Trillian to join him or hand over the keys, but she flees and he chases her. Finnegan pursues Canton to the ballroom on the main deck, saving Trillian. The creatures smash through the main deck and are revealed to be tentacles of a vast deep-sea monster—the Octalus—rather than individual entities. The Octalus grabs hold of Finnegan, who shoots it in the eye, blinding it and freeing himself, and he and Trillian escape on the jet ski. Canton flees the *Argonautica* by jumping onto Finnegan's boat, but breaks his leg doing so. Crippled, he cannot disable the autopilot and dies as the boat crashes into the *Argonautica*, detonating the torpedoes and destroying both ships and the Octalus.

Finnegan and Trillian reach the island and reunite with Joey, who they thought had died. A roar then echoes from the jungle. The island turns out to have an active volcano in the distance as something big comes crashing through the trees towards the beach.

Cast

- Treat Williams as John Finnegan
- Famke Janssen as Trillian St. James
- Anthony Heald as Simon Canton
- Kevin J. O'Connor as Joey Pantucci
- Wes Studi as Hanover
- Derrick O'Connor as Captain H.W. Atherton
- Jason Flemyng as Mulligan
- Cliff Curtis as Mamooli
- Clifton Powell as Mason
- Trevor Goddard as T-Ray
- Djimon Hounsou as Vivo
- Una Damon as Leila
- Clint Curtis as Billy

Production

Stephen Sommers began writing the script to *Deep Rising*, then called *Tentacle*, when he worked at Hollywood Pictures in the mid-1990s. Sommers was inspired to write the script for the film after reading a *National Geographic* article about jellyfish.[5] Claire Forlani was originally cast as Trillian St. James, but dropped out after just three days, due to creative differences with Sommers, and Famke Janssen was subsequently cast. Janssen almost did not get the part because the producers felt she was too recognizable from *GoldenEye*. Harrison Ford turned down the role of John Finnegan, which later went to Treat Williams, and the film's budget was later downsized.[6][7]

Filming for *Deep Rising* began on June 12, 1996, and lasted until October 18 of that year. The film was originally set for release in the fall of 1997, but was delayed until the following January 1998. Industrial Light and Magic was responsible for the film's special effects while Rob Bottin who had previously worked on *The Thing* and on Paul Verhoven's *RoboCop* was hired as the special makeup effects designer.

The exterior shots of the cruise ship *Argonautica* were created by computer-generated imagery; it is an original design not based on any existing vessel.[8] Two models of the cruise ship were created, a 38-foot (12 m) model for shots of the *Argonautica* on the ocean, and a 110-foot (34 m) model for the sinking of *Argonautica*.[9]

Reception

Box office

On its opening weekend, the film made $4,737,793 (42% of its total gross), ranking #8. It ended with a total intake of $11.2 million in North America.[1]

Critical response

On the review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes, 36% of 36 critics' reviews are positive, with an average rating of 4.3/10. The website's consensus reads: "Its fleeting glimpses of creature feature mayhem are certainly dumb fun, but *Deep Rising* cribs from far too many better movies to stand on its own."[10] *Chicago Sun-Times* critic Roger Ebert included the film in his most hated list.[11] Ebert called the film "essentially an *Alien* clone with a fresh paint job".[12] *Variety*'s Leonard Klady said the film "is an old-fashioned B-movie with A-budget effects, but the quality sheen can't disguise the cheap-thrills hokum."[13]

Ty Burr, writing for *Entertainment Weekly* called the film "a tightly written, often howlingly funny *Aliens* knockoff that, in its portrayal of tough men and tougher women under pressure, favorably recalls the work of Howard Hawks", giving it a grade of "B−".[14] Bloody Disgusting wrote, "Excellent cast, State-of-art special effects, and terrific acting, this is a movie that should not be missed."[15]

Audiences polled by CinemaScore gave the film an average grade of "C+" on an A+ to F scale.[16]

Deep Rising has gone on to become a cult film. Later, director Stephen Sommers said: "It didn't do a ton of business, but it has a very fervent following."[17][6][18]

Home media

Deep Rising was released on DVD and VHS on October 19, 1998, both of which are now out of print. It was released as a 2-Disc Special Edition on DVD and Blu-ray on August 7, 2007. It was released on Blu-ray as a double feature with *The Puppet Masters* from Mill Creek Entertainment on October 9, 2012.[19] Kino Lorber re-released the film on DVD and Blu-ray with new special features on August 21, 2018.[20] Currently the film is streaming in the U.S. on the Peacock Network.

Notes

a. Named after the Greek epic poem of the same name.

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External links

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